



# Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *Hoopa Valley Tribe, CA*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Hoopa Valley Tribe for a Brownfields Pilot. The Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation (HVIR), California's largest Indian Reservation, has a population of 3,431. The reservation is located in the northeastern portion of Humboldt County. The HVIR has very high incidences of unemployment (29.6%) and poverty (40.7%) rates. The nearest job market is located approximately 65 miles east in Eureka, so access to employment opportunities is a major concern.

The 1980 closure of an 83-acre lumber mill that had been operating since 1957 has left the area idle and has also affected surrounding properties. Although some environmental testing and cleanup has been conducted at the site, the perception of residual contamination has hindered site development and has caused public health concerns for nearby residents. The site is an important element of the Tribe's comprehensive development plan because it mixes much needed affordable housing with industrial development and job creation.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Hoopa Valley Tribe,  
California*

**Date of Announcement:**  
July 1998

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot targets an 83-acre former lumber mill site on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation for a mixed-use industrial park.

### Contacts:

Tribal Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Hoopa Valley Tribe  
(916) 625-5515

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 9  
(415) 744-2237

Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

In conjunction with Tribal-wide comprehensive planning and overall economic development plans, the Pilot will facilitate environmental cleanup and redevelopment of the former lumber mill into a mixed-use industrial park. To help achieve this objective, the Pilot will focus on environmental activities preliminary to cleanup and redevelopment. In addition to the Pilot, the Tribe is working with other Federal partners to ensure that the project is a success.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Conducting environmental site assessments, site identification, and site characterization of the target site;
- Conducting community outreach and public education activities;
- Developing effective and affordable cleanup and redevelopment plans; and
- Leveraging of funding from the public and private sectors.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.